

# **Plastic Bag Ordinance Working Session**

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Hosted by Councilors Matt O'Malley and Michelle Wu

# Overview of Ordinance

*Ban single-use plastic bags and a five-cents fee to paper bags, reusable plastic bags (3 mil) and compostable plastic bags.*

## Purpose

- Curb litter on the streets
- Protect marine environment and waterways
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and solid waste
- Protect the long-term environmental health of the City

**Exemptions:** laundry or dry-cleaner bags, newspaper bags and bags used to contain or wrap foods, meat or fish

**Enforcement:** If a retailer continues to violate after it receives a warning, the penalty of each violation is no more than \$50 for the first offense and \$100 for the second offense.

# Timeline of Plastic Bag Ordinance

**August 3:** Order passed to create the 90-day working group

**September 13:** Break out session

**October 4:** Open discussion and survey walkthrough

**October 6:** Online survey is public and translated in three languages

**October 25:** Survey analysis and further discussion on the ordinance

**November 16:** City Council briefing

**December 13:** Public Hearing on reducing plastic bags

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**January 13:** Ordinance was re-filed for the 2017 Legislative Session

# Task Force Findings

## Ordinance

- Simple & narrow
- Follow the models of City ordinances such as Seattle's and Cambridge's
- Include a ban and a fee for robust impact

## Implementation

- Focus on accessibility for low income families & seniors
- Needs education and outreach
- Must engage small and local businesses





Video by Calida (11), Clare and Eleanor (10) from the Mather Girl Scout Troop

# Discussion

How can the ordinance work for all Boston residents and businesses?